

29. (New) The voltage-level converter of claim 1, wherein the static voltage-level converter includes two down-sized transistors.
30. (New) The voltage-level converter of claim 29, wherein the two down-sized transistors are insulated gate field-effect transistors.
- B2*
31. (New) The voltage level converter of claim 2, wherein the second transistor of the first pair of transistors and the second transistor of the second pair of transistors are down-sized.
- July 10/2*
32. (New) The voltage level converter of claim 32, wherein the second transistor of the first pair of transistors and the second transistor of the second pair of transistors are insulated gate field-effect transistors.

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the office action mailed on May 8, 2002 and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended, no claims are canceled, and claims 29-32 are added; as a result, claims 1-6 and 29-32 are now pending in the application.

Support for new claims 29-32 is found on page 8 of the specification at lines 7-8.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kumagai (U.S. Patent No. 5,896,043).

Claim 1 is amended to recite "a static voltage-level converter *including an inverter coupled to no more than two transistors in the static voltage-level converter. . .*" (emphasis added).

Support for the amendment to claim 1 is found on page 8 of the specification at lines 2-4.

In contrast, Kumagai, as shown in FIG. 11, teaches an inverter coupled to at least three transistors labeled 1, 2 and 52a. Thus, Kumagai does not disclose "a static voltage-level converter *including an inverter coupled to no more than two transistors in the static voltage-level converter. . .*" (emphasis added). Hence, Kumagai does not disclose each and every element of claim 1, as

amended, so Kumagai does not anticipate claim 1. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

Claim 2 is amended to ensure that each term in claim 2 that has an antecedent in claim 1 is not indefinite.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1. For reasons analogous to those stated above and elements in the claims, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6 are not anticipated by Kumagai. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-6.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 371-2109 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 28 day of June, 2002.

Jane E. Brockschink

Name

Signature

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